

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a three-dimensional object, ~~which comprises comprising~~ the steps of

- a) providing a layer of a pulverulent substrate;
- b) controlling the temperature of [[the]] a manufacturing chamber;
- c) ~~selective application of~~ selectively applying an absorber in a suspension or of a liquid absorber via an inkjet process to [[the]] regions to be sintered;
- d) ~~application of~~ applying other specific liquids or suspensions with certain properties;
- e) selective melting of regions of the powder layer by means of introduction of electromagnetic energy via a laser of wavelength from 100 to 3000 nm;
- f) cooling of the molten and non-molten regions to a temperature ~~which that~~ allows the moldings to be removed intact; and
- g) ~~removal of~~ removing the moldings.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein step e) is first carried out once, and then steps a) to d) are carried out once, and then step b) is carried out and step a) is carried out again once, and then the other steps are carried out in the sequence c), d), a), b), and e).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~either/and of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1,

wherein

the pulverulent substrate [[used]] has a median grain size of from 10 to 150 μm .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 1,

wherein

use is made of a laser of wavelength from 800 to 1070 nm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 1,

wherein

use is made of a laser of wavelength from 1900 to 2100 nm.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 1,

wherein

use is made of an Nd:YAG laser.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 1,

wherein

use is made of a diode laser.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~
claim 1,

wherein

use is made of a laser with an unfocused, linear or spread beam.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein

the absorber comprises colorants.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 9,

wherein

the absorber comprises pigments.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 9,

wherein

the absorber comprises dyes.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein

the absorber comprises carbon black, CHP, animal charcoal, graphite, carbon fibers, chalk, or interference pigments.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein

the absorber comprises ~~other components alongside~~ carbon black, CHP, animal charcoal, graphite, carbon fibers, chalk, or interference pigments and other components.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1,

wherein

the absorber comprises flame retardants based on phosphorus or melamine cyanurate.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9,

wherein

the absorber also comprises distilled water, or alcohol, or solvent.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9,

wherein

the absorber also comprises a surfactant and/or wetting agent and/or biocide and/or moisture retainer.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1,

wherein

the pulverulent substrate [[used]] comprises polymers.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~
claim 1,

wherein

the pulverulent substrate [[used]] comprises sand, metal particles, or ceramic particles, ~~which~~ that have been encapsulated by a polymeric material.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 17 [[or 18]],

wherein

the polymer is a homo- or copolymer preferably selected from polyester, polyvinyl chloride, polyacetal, polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate, polysulfone, polyarylene ether, polyurethane, thermoplastic elastomers, polylactides, polyoxyalkylenes, poly(N-methylmethacrylimides) (PMMI), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), ionomer, polyamide, copolyester, copolyamides, silicone polymers, terpolymers, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 19~~
claim 17,

wherein

use is made of a pulverulent substrate ~~which~~ that comprises from 0.05 to 5% by weight of a powder-flow aid.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 17 to 20~~
claim 17,

wherein

use is made of a pulverulent substrate ~~which that~~ comprises inorganic fillers.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 21,
wherein
the filler [[used]] comprises glass beads.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 17~~
~~to 22~~ claim 17,
wherein
use is made of a pulverulent substrate ~~which that~~ comprises inorganic or organic
pigments.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for the layer-by-layer production of
three-dimensional objects,
~~which comprises comprising~~
[[-]] a movable apparatus for the layer-by-layer application of a pulverulent substrate
to an operating platform or to a layer of a treated or untreated pulverulent substrate [(2)]
~~which that~~ may at this stage be present on the operating platform,
[[-]] an apparatus [(3)] movable in the x, y plane, for the application of a material
[(4)] comprising an absorber and optionally [[of]] other additives to selected regions of the
layer composed of pulverulent substrate, and
[[-]] a laser of a wavelength from 100 to 3000 nm.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A molding produced by a process as claimed in ~~any~~
~~of claims 1 to 24~~ claim 1.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The molding as claimed in claim 25,
~~which comprises~~ further comprising
fillers selected from glass bead or silicas or metal particles, or ~~comprises~~ aluminum
particles.